

Though "The Star" is printed on the finest steam press in use south of Boston, its edition is so large as to require it to be put to press at an early hour. Advertisements, therefore, should be sent in by 12 o'clock, m.; otherwise they may not appear until the next day.

WASHINGTON CITY: THURSDAY, December 30, 1888.

**THE UNION.** In an article entitled "Cuba, an Independent Colony—Spain and the United States," argues that for all domestic purposes Cuba is an independent government—absolute power being conferred on the Captain General and exercised by him—and that if it is created an independent State for practical purposes, it should be endowed with faculties for dealing with other governments in reference to all those matters which come within the scope of its general administration. In conclusion, the *Union* says:

"How, indeed, is it possible to maintain good relations with a government which is armed with offensive powers and disarmed of all defensive authority? They thus invite a resort to force in each particular case; for it is only when menaced with punishment that they are empowered to satisfy the wrongs they have inflicted. A system so mischievous is dangerous to the peace of all parties; and if Spain has a grain of appreciation of her true interests, she will promptly modify her Cuban management in accordance with the suggestions of Mr. Buchanan's message."

The *Intelligencer* discredits the telegraphic dispatch from New Orleans yesterday, in regard to an apprehended revolution in Cuba, terming it a "cock-and-bull story." &c. It thinks there is more probability in the story of a schooner load of filibusters escaping from New Orleans.

We are indebted to C. J. Fox, of Aspinwall, N. G., for late Granada papers.

Col. Abraham Van Buren—son of the ex-President—a resident of Columbia, S. C., recently sold all the slaves on his plantation, 210 in number, for \$147,000, being an average of \$700 each.

The telegraph chess match between New York and Philadelphia terminated Tuesday evening, when New York resigned on the thirty-ninth move. The closing moves on the part of the Philadelphians were finely played.

A large company of children, about sixty in number, left New York on Tuesday for the West, under the charge of Mr. H. Friedgen, an agent of the Children's Society. They went off in high spirits.

Capt. Renaud, the captain of the French bark *Maurice*, who saved the passengers of the burning steamer *Austria*, has been decorated by Napoleon with the title of Chevalier in the Legion of Honor, while to his officers were presented gold medals.

**ARREST OF A NOTED CHIEF.**—The Oregon Standard of the 23rd ult., says that the noted Indian chief "Epile," the leader in the massacre at the Cascades in 1856, and who has again been endeavoring to incite the Indians to commence hostilities upon the settlements, has been captured by Lieut. Mallory at White Salmon river and lodged in the guard house at Vancouver.

**ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.**—The wife of Mortimer, the prize fighter, has made two attempts to commit suicide by taking laudanum, within the past few days. Both were happily frustrated by the timely arrival of a physician and a stomach pump, by which the poison was expelled before it had produced fatal consequence. The cause for the rash attempts at self destruction has not transpired.

The Commissioners of Quarantine in New York have made their report on the removal of that institution to the State officers. The Commissioners, in accordance with the report of Captain Benham, appointed by the General Government to make surveys, recommend the construction of the Quarantine establishment on Old Orchard Shoals. This report settles finally the question of location.

Kenney, the forger, now in jail at New London, Ct., awaiting trial, has issued a card to his creditors in which he offers, on condition of his release from jail, to pay them fifty per cent. of their claims within one week of his release. He also informs his creditors that if this proposition is not accepted, they will not get much on their claims against him.

**NEW PUBLICATIONS.**—From Messrs. Blackman & Mohr we have the following books, well adapted to the holiday season: "Christmas Holidays at Cedar Grove," "The Heroes of the Last Lustre," published by Dana, of New York. Also, "Mrs. Cooper's Mosaic Vernon Letter," issued in the usual handsome style of the Appletons.

From Frank Taylor we have also a copy of the latter publication.

The death warrant of Henry Gambrill, at Baltimore, has been received and read to him. While the reading was progressing Gambrill remained perfectly calm, and at the conclusion he bowed to the sheriff, but spoke not a word. The sheriff then told him that he had his spiritual adviser, with whom he should consult, and every facility would be granted to make the remainder of his short life comfortable, to which he again bowed. It was evident that he was filled with the deepest emotion, though maintaining a perfect calmness throughout the trying ordeal.

Fremont has triumphed over the squatters upon his Meriposa grant. The Merced Mining Company, who have been at work on the Mexican grant claimed by Fremont, have been driven off, and now Fremont has it all his own way. The Merced Company have worked hard and spent a large amount of money to develop the resources of four hundred acres on the property at once. C. K. Garrison, of San Francisco, has purchased a one-fourth interest in the grant of Col. Fremont, and in connection with him will proceed immediately to construct a water mill near Ridley's Ferry, Merced river.

**THE TARIFF ON COFFEE.**—At a meeting of the grocers in Philadelphia, to take action upon the proposed abolition of two per cent. tax heretofore levied upon coffee by the importers of that article, the following resolutions were adopted: Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that there is no just cause for the proposed change; and that we the grocers of Philadelphia will insist on the continuance of the custom as it at present exists. Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed by the Chairman of this meeting to communicate the foregoing resolutions to the importers. The committee of coffee importers of New York City have decided to defer to the representation of the grocers, and meet their views by allowing one per cent. tax on coffee from the first proximo, provided the Baltimore and Philadelphia importers coincide.

**MISSOURI.**—The Governor of Missouri, in his message to the Legislature, says the receipts into the State Treasury for the past two years have been \$1,361,000, and the expenditures for the same period \$1,132,000. The Governor hopes the additional aid will be granted for the completion of the Pacific railroad to Kansas City, and advises that instead of selling the roads to make them pay the interest on the State bonds that measures be taken to secure the faithful application of the receipts of the companies to legitimate purposes, allowing the roads to be worked until their ability to pay is fairly tested. The number of public schools in the State have increased in the last three years from 1,500 to 2,300. The Governor urges the establishment of an agricultural college. He says he has received communications from the Legislatures of Maine, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire on the subject of slavery of a very liberal character, but has not acknowledged their receipt, and will not submit them to the Legislature unless they are especially called for.

WASHINGTON NEWS AND GOSSIP.

**THE ONSLAUGHT ON SENATOR HUNTER.**—So many inquiries have been made of us with reference to the Richmond *Enquirer's* onslaught on Senator Hunter, as to incline us to accord a brief notice of it upon the *Star's* news column, simply because anticipating that it would be correctly appreciated by all without such notice on the part of the press.

The truth is, it is but a continuation or prolongation of the *Enquirer's* old quarrel with or grudge against Senator Hunter, so manifest in its glaringly abortive effort to defeat his late re-election to the United States Senate. Its remarkable war against the late nomination of Mr. John Lecher was but another anti-Hunter move on its chess board. In that, it was quite as signally defeated. The *Enquirer* is deluded with the idea that Governor Wise is a prominent aspirant for the Presidency, and that Senator Hunter's aspirations for the same position are a stumbling block in the way of Governor Wise in that connection. The sweeping defeat of Governor Wise's efforts (through the *Enquirer*) to prevent the re-election of Mr. Hunter to the Senate, and the subsequent horse-foot-and-dragons rout of the "Wise party" in the gubernatorial convention, would have been sufficient to teach any other newspaper than the *Enquirer* the folly of attempting to argue to the world that the eccentric Governor has a considerable party, for the Presidency, in the Old Dominion's democratic ranks. But what was thus made patent to all the rest of the world will never be comprehended by the *Enquirer*, we apprehend—that journal having become entirely oblivious, apparently, to aught but Governor Wise, his past, present and future. It is now simply the hero of any number of glaring defeats, and the exponent of the Governor's idiotic egotism of the hour. Unfortunately, its "turn" for the last few months has been in the way of rivaling the Philadelphia *Press* in raking and scraping together arguments and plausible pretenses to argue against the Democracy in the canvass of 1860. The now so manifest sale of the influence of the *Press* in favor of the political schemes of the Republican party, will prevent that journal's back-handed blows against the Democratic party from resulting in harm; and we entertain every hope that the evident devotion of the *Enquirer* to the fortunes of the eccentric Governor of Virginia only, will be so apparent to the world as also to prevent the capital it is some how so industriously making (for 1860) for the Opposition, from proving available to them.

On the occasion to which we refer above, it repeats an *ad hoc* allegation that the President has declared himself for the nomination of Mr. Hunter to the Presidency in 1860, and makes it the basis of various disparagements of that distinguished gentleman, who is powerless in Virginia according to the *Enquirer* of late—yet always powerful enough as results prove, to defeat the schemes-political supported by the *Enquirer*. Now, we have to say that there never was a more glaring roborack than this story that has startled the *Enquirer* into imagining that Governor Wise has a considerable party for the Democratic Presidential nomination in Virginia. We will wager our head that no responsible man can be found who will allege that President Buchanan expressed to him a preference for the Presidential nomination of Senator Hunter or any one else, over the rest of Senator H.'s many distinguished competitors for that honor at the hands of the Charleston convention. Doubtless, Mr. Hunter was as much surprised as all others here, at the promulgation of this foolish story that seems to have turned the wits of the Richmond *Enquirer*, as we explain above.

**FACTS, REPORTS AND RUMORS.**—It is stated that President Buchanan has determined to make a tour through North Carolina next summer, and to attend the commencement at Chapel Hill College. "Great efforts are being made here to humbug the Government and Congress, and by newspaper correspondents to delude the people, about the fabulous mineral wealth of Arizona. While it must be conceded there is no doubt that good silver and copper mines exist, which require the application of large capital and mining skill, I am assured, on the best authority, there is no evidence as yet of auriferous deposits or 'washings,' as in California, to reward individuals without capital." So says the correspondent of the New York *Herald*, writing from this city under date of the 28th inst. We may add that the efforts from this city to get up a gold and silver fever about Arizona are so persistent and glaring as to satisfy most men of common sense here that there is a big speculation at the bottom of them. The puffs on puffs are doubtless to be continued until green 'uns may rush to buy the lands or mining stocks at fabulous prices—to yield them, eventually, only "the bag to hold."

The contract for the engines of the new sloop-of-war now building at Norfolk has been awarded to Murray & Haselhurst, of Baltimore. The official returns from the two important emigrant ports of Europe—Bremen and Hamburg—show that the number of emigrants to the United States was 41,544 for the ten months and a half previous to the 15th of November. This is considerable less than during a corresponding period of the year previous. It is said that when the Senate occupies the new hall, on the reassembling of Congress, all persons not members of Congress or officers at the Capitol will be excluded. The enforcement of this salutary rule will of course give rise to no little grumbling. According to latest advices from England, Lord Napier's successor, Lord Lyons, will not reach here before about the 1st of March. Advices have been received here that the United States sloop-of-war St. Mary's arrived at Guaymas on the 16th just in time to prevent the expulsion of Col. Stone's surveying party from Sonora.

**NAVAL NEWS.**—The Navy Department is in receipt of despatches containing the following interesting intelligence, to wit: The *Saratoga* arrived at Tampico on the 3d inst., in thirteen days from Aspinwall. Commander Turner had gone up to Tampico in a boat. The *Fulton* left Maranhao on the 13th ult., arrived at Pernambuco on the 19th, and would sail thence on the 26th for St. Catharine's. The *Water Witch* arrived at Pernambuco, from Clara, on the 23d ult. All these vessels had lengthy but safe trips, being 50 days in making a distance usually accomplished in 30 or 35 days. The *Harriet Lane* arrived at Maranhao on the 25th ult., in six days from Pernambuco. She was to leave for St. Catharine's on the 28th ult.

The Fenimore Cooper, Lieut. Brooks, commanding, arrived at Honolulu after a cruise of 43 days, during which she visited various positions, alleged to be dangerous, between San Francisco and the Sandwich Islands, on the route to China, but perceived no indications of land, shoals, or rocks. Various soundings, with deep-sea leads were made, and a specimen of water taken from a depth of three and one-eighth miles, which is presumed to be from a greater depth than any has ever before been obtained. The *Cyano*, bound for the Pacific, arrived at Rio on the 16th inst., in fifty-three days from Norfolk, and expected to sail in a week for Valparaiso.

The Roanoke arrived at Aspinwall on the 20th inst. Thomas Arkwright, fireman, died on board of her on the 23d ult., and James Donovan was on the 16th December. James Fitzgerald died on board of the *Savannah*, at San Juan del Norte, on the 4th of December. The *Janet* was still cruising between the Colorado river and Chiriqui Lagoon. On the 1st instant, the mate of the American ship *Fortitude* arrived at San Juan del Norte, in the long boat, and represented the ship as having been run ashore off Cape Gracias a Dios. As there were both English and American vessels at anchor there, there could have been no suffering to the officers and crew, or difficulty in saving articles from the wreck. There had arrived at San Juan the British ship *Cesar*, of 90 guns and 400 horse steam power; and the *Diadem*, of 32 ten-inch guns and 800 horse steam power.

There were also received despatches from Commander Sinclair, of the ship *Vandalia*, dated at Tahiti, September 10th, giving an account of his visit to Oahu and Pitcairn Islands, in search of the crew of the *Wild Wave*, a Boston ship, wrecked at Oahu in March last. He succeeded in finding the crew and passengers of the *Wild Wave*, and they were on board the *Vandalia*, all safe. Thirty-three were taken from Oahu and three from Pitcairn Island. The boatswain had died a few days before.

We take the following items of Naval news from the New York Times: The new frigate *Brooklyn* was brought to the Navy Yard on Monday afternoon to receive her armament. There are now 1,100 men on board the receiving ship *North Carolina*. The steamer *Canada* and *America*, negotiated for by Government, for the Paraguay expedition, have been sold to the Messrs. Hargous Brothers, for the Louisiana Territory. The *Albatross*, placed upon the route between New Orleans and Mississippi.

At the Navy Yard in Charlestown, Mass., rapid progress is being made in the completion of the war-sloop *Hartford*; she is now receiving her engine. Men are busy and active about her to finish her in the best and speediest manner.

**THE PUBLIC GROUNDS.**—It strikes us as being about time that Congress should take measures to insure that the future embellishment and improvement of the public grounds in this city shall be conducted in all their details upon some well-defined plan, such as was essayed to be carried out when the late Mr. Downing was in charge of that branch of the Government's affairs here. At present there is really no single head to direct their future progress, the result of which fact can hardly fail to be delays, variance of plans, baulks in the progress of the work, &c., which must in time tell effectively against the possibility of its completion in due season and in a satisfactory manner. We believe that Congress is as anxious as the citizens of the District and the country at large that the public grounds in the Federal Metropolis shall be embellished in a manner in just accord with the value of the Government property here, and with the dignity of the United States. To that end it is quite as necessary that the first horticultural and landscape embellishing talent to be found in the United States should now be employed upon the work, as during the life-time of the late Mr. Downing.

**LATE CALIFORNIA ITEMS.** The law proceedings against the New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Company continue to excite much attention throughout the State. The miners have been made in some instances to believe that the principle asserted in the late decision of the United States' Court here, in granting an injunction, if carried out, would deprive them of the right to work the mines. It is, however, from being worked, may run up the price of quicksilver—a price necessary among California miners. This naturally causes a great deal of grumbling. Still, the best-informed people, even in the mining regions, appear to think that the Almaden Company should not be allowed to hold on to the mines if they pretend title from the State government. The miners of the people of San Jose have held a meeting and memorialized the government to permit the work of the mines to go on during the pending of the litigation. The chief instigators of this meeting are Republicans, and the whole proceedings smack of political hounding to hurt the administration.

**San Francisco.**—The annual examination of the public schools was commenced on Monday, December 28th. The public schools at this time are in a very creditable state of efficiency. There are in this county at this time 12,602 children, of whom 4,713 are in attendance upon the schools.

The steamship *Hermann* arrived here on the 27th November with 600 passengers from New York, via the Straits of Magellan. She made the trip in 95 days, stopping at various ports on her way.

**A California Earthquake.**—A few minutes before 1 o'clock, on the morning of November 26th, our people were awaked by a severe shock of an earthquake. Scarcely had they opened their eyes and congratulated themselves on the quietness of the morning, when a still more severe and longer continued trembling of the earth began. The latter shock lasted between ten and twenty seconds, and the building erected in the city, and in other places, the earthquake was also severely felt. However, the houses were not injured, and no serious damage was done, however. This earthquake was felt at various places over the State. At Stockton it was probably as severe as in San Francisco. In Sacramento the trembling was less sensibly felt. At San Jose it was much more severe, seriously cracking and injuring many of the houses. About one and a half miles from the latter place, the ground is reported to have been upheaved wide seams and fissures, from whence sulphurous smoke ascended the morning after the earthquake. However, the fissures existed before the earthquake, and the earthquake was also severely felt. However, the houses were not injured, and no serious damage was done, however. This earthquake was felt at various places over the State. At Stockton it was probably as severe as in San Francisco. In Sacramento the trembling was less sensibly felt. At San Jose it was much more severe, seriously cracking and injuring many of the houses. About one and a half miles from the latter place, the ground is reported to have been upheaved wide seams and fissures, from whence sulphurous smoke ascended the morning after the earthquake. However, the fissures existed before the earthquake, and the earthquake was also severely felt. However, the houses were not injured, and no serious damage was done, however. 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